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STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF THE SUSPENSION	:	
OR REVOCATION OF THE LICENSE OF	:	Administrative Action
	:	
Paul J. Walker, RN	:	ORDER OF SUSPENSION
License #26NR13451800	:	OF LICENSE
	:	
TO PRACTICE NURSING IN	:	
THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY	:	
	:	

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Nursing ("Board") upon receipt of information indicating the following:

1. Paul J. Walker ("Respondent") is a Registered Professional Nurse (RN) in the State of New Jersey and has been

a licensee at all relevant times. (Exhibit A).

2. Respondent entered into a private letter agreement ("PLA") with the Board on or about February 6, 2014. The agreement required, in part, that Respondent enroll in and comply with the Board's designated intervention program, the Recovery and Monitoring Program ("RAMP"), to undergo evaluation, monitoring, and treatment, including random screens. The agreement, which was to remain private and confidential unless and until the Board received reliable information that Respondent had violated any term, was to have the force and effect of a Board Order within the intendment of N.J.A.C. 13:45C-1.4. (Exhibit B).

3. Respondent failed to refrain from the use of potentially addictive substances as evidenced by three screens (9/15/14, 2/6/15, 8/7/15) which were positive for drugs (amphetamine, cocaine metabolites, and methamphetamine) and for which Respondent did not present a valid prescription. (Exhibit C).

4. Respondent failed to check-in on a daily basis with the online monitoring system which randomly schedules screens (19 missed check-ins from July 2014 - August 2015). (Exhibit C).

5. Respondent failed to follow RAMP's recommendation for

further treatment in an intensive outpatient program (IOP).

(Exhibit C).

6. Respondent failed to successfully complete RAMP by leaving the program and ceasing participation with the program as of August 31, 2015. (Exhibit C).

7. RAMP cannot assure the Board or the public that Respondent is safe to practice. (Exhibit C).

8. On November 17, 2015, a communication was sent to Respondent at his address of record by overnight and regular mail, advising Respondent that the Board had received information indicating that he was not in compliance with the private letter agreement, and with his agreement with RAMP. Respondent was further advised to provide the Board with proof of any inaccuracy in that information within two weeks. (Exhibit D). No response was received.

9. The Board received information indicating that Respondent was arrested on December 30, 2015 in Evesham Township and charged with violating N.J.S.A. 2C:36-2 (Possession of Drug Paraphernalia). The private letter agreement required Respondent to notify the Board in writing within 10 days of any arrest. Respondent failed to notify the Board that he had been arrested. (Exhibit E).

10. The private letter agreement signed by Respondent provided for automatic suspension of Respondent's nursing license upon receipt of reliable information indicating that Respondent had violated any term of the private letter agreement. The agreement states that Respondent may, upon notice to the Board, request a hearing to contest the automatic suspension; however, at any such hearing, the sole issue shall be whether any of the information received regarding Respondent's violation of the agreement was materially false. The Board also reserved the right to bring further disciplinary action. (Exhibit B).

11. Respondent violated the private letter agreement by: failing to refrain from the use of potentially addictive substances as evidenced by three screens (9/15/14, 2/6/15, 8/7/15) which were positive for drugs (amphetamine, cocaine metabolites, and methamphetamine); failing to present valid prescriptions for the drugs; failing to check-in on a daily basis with the online monitoring system which randomly schedules screens (19 missed check-ins from July 2014 - August 2015); failing to follow RAMP's recommendation for further treatment in an intensive outpatient program (IOP); failing to successfully complete RAMP by leaving the program and ceasing participation

with the program as of August 31, 2015; and failing to notify the Board that he had been arrested for a drug-related charge. Each violation of the private letter agreement constitutes a violation of N.J.A.C. 13:45C-1.4, subjecting Respondent to sanctions pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e), and automatic suspension of his license as provided in the private letter agreement.

ACCORDINGLY, IT IS on this 15th day of January, 2016, HEREBY ORDERED that:

1. Respondent's license to practice nursing in the State of New Jersey is hereby suspended for his violation of the terms of the private letter agreement as set forth above, which is a violation of a Board Order within the intendment of N.J.A.C. 13:45C-1.4 and N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e).

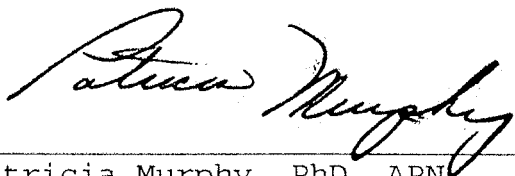
2. Respondent may, under the terms of the private letter agreement, request a hearing, upon notice, on the sole issue of whether information received that Respondent has failed to comply with the terms of the private letter agreement was materially false.

3. In the event that Respondent seeks reinstatement of his New Jersey nursing license at any future time, the Board shall not entertain any application for reinstatement without a

demonstration by Respondent that he is fit and competent to practice, in full compliance with the terms and conditions of the private letter agreement, and with any agreement with RAMP, and that RAMP supports his reinstatement.

4. The Board reserves the right to initiate further disciplinary proceedings based upon the disposition or resolution of the criminal matter.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF NURSING

By: 
Patricia Murphy, PhD, APN
Board President